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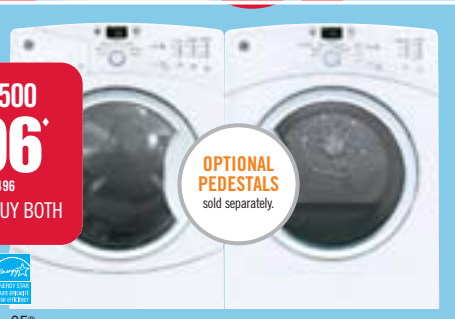

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CAN SHE STACK UP?
COMPARING THE STYLES OF KATE MIDDLETON, PRINCESS DI {pages 14-15}

ONLY 38 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT!
GET STARTED WITH OUR GIFT GUIDE {pages 22-30}

SPLITSVILLE
DIVORCE FOR LONGORIA, NBA'S PARKER {page 18}

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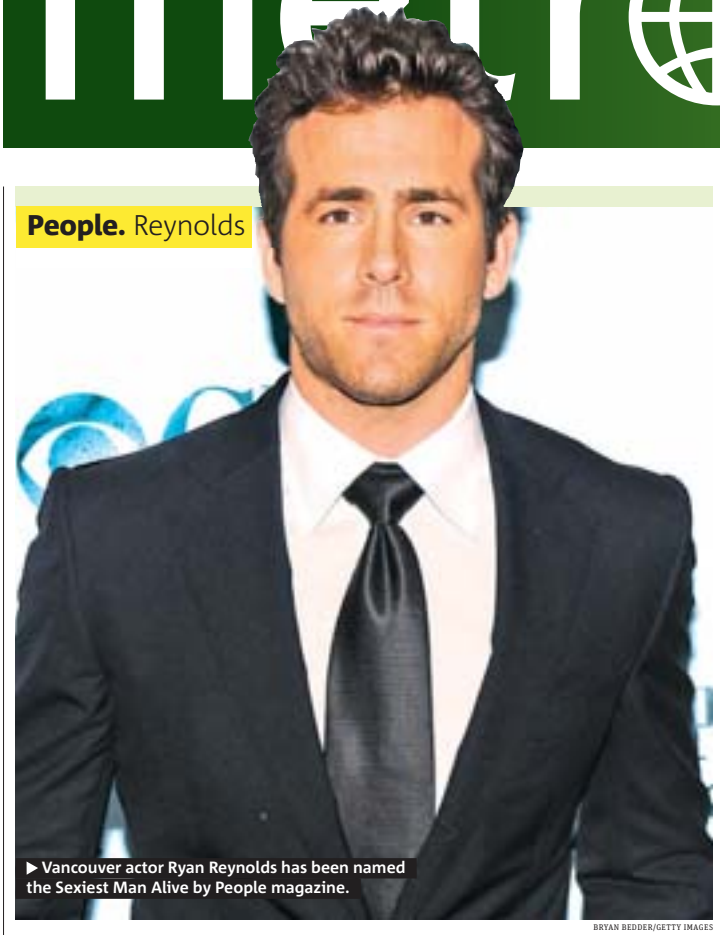
News worth sharing.

People. Reynolds



▶ Vancouver actor Ryan Reynolds has been named the Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES

Meet the Sexiest Man Alive

Vancouver's Ryan Reynolds, 34, known for his washboard abs, is the first Canadian to snag the magazine's Sexiest Man Alive title. In an interview with People, Reynolds said the sexiest thing about Canadians is the "inherent ability to be self-deprecating." His wife, actress Scarlett Johansson, was recently named GQ's 2010 Babe of the Year. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks fizzle in Pittsburgh

Eastern road trip ends with 3-1 loss to Penguins {page 31}

Search for son continues

Australian family scouring Vancouver {page 3}

Liberals 'suspend' tax cut

▶ Promised 15 per cent tax cut would have reduced provincial revenue by $600M ▶ Suspension of the tax cut comes the same day that Kootenay East MLA is fired from cabinet ▶ Former energy minister calls premier an abusive bully

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

The B.C. Liberal cabinet nixed a 15 per cent personal income tax cut yesterday that was promised only three weeks ago by outgoing Premier Gordon Campbell.

The tax cut, which was to have taken effect on Jan. 1 on earnings up to $72,293, was announced last month during the premier's televised address.

It was delivered at a time when Campbell's popularity was at an all-time low and did little to improve his status.

He has since announced his resignation.

The executive council's decision to "suspend" the tax cut will ensure maximum flexibility to set the economic and fiscal agenda, said Campbell in a release.

Cabinet, he added, did not want to be hampered by decisions that could unnecessarily limit the ability to set priorities.

The tax cut was projected to reduce provincial revenue by about $600 million.

The suspension came on a wild day in B.C. politics that saw Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett punted from cabinet. The former energy minister, who had called on Campbell to step down immediately, accused the premier of being abusive, driving female cabinet ministers from politics and even spitting in his face during a confrontation.

The cabinet also announced yesterday that the 2011 throne speech would occur Feb. 14 and outline the plan for a transition period until a new premier is sworn in. A "status quo" budget with no new initiatives is to be tabled the next day.

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Olympic Village in receivership

The financially troubled Olympic Village has been put into receivership.

The City of Vancouver announced yesterday that Ernst and Young was assuming control of the Millennium Water development.

"The agreement we have reached today is in the best interests of Vancouver taxpayers and the long-term health of the Olympic Village," Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a statement.

He thanked Millennium for their work "building an amazing neighbourhood under the difficult deadline" of the Games.

Following the 2010 Winter Games, units in the eight-block, 25-building village were to be turned into a mix of free-market condos and social housing.

But sales never really picked up and in September, Millennium came up short on its loan payment. The developer said they didn't expect to finish selling the more than 400 remaining units for another two and a half years.

The Olympic village's troubles began even before the Games, when the developer's original lender stopped paying its loan, forcing the city to step in and secure hundreds of millions of dollars to finish the project in time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE

▶ Mayor Gregor Robertson hands the "key" to the Olympic Village to VANOC CEO John Furlong.

Aussies scour city for missing son

- Owen Rooney, 24, abandoned cell, passport before disappearing
- Last seen in Grand Forks Aug. 14

J.J. MCCULLOUGH
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Refusing to surrender even after months of fruitless searching, an Australian couple is continuing their quest to locate their missing son, who vanished during a working holiday in British Columbia more than 12 weeks ago.

Though 24-year-old Owen Rooney was last seen in Grand Forks, a recent tip from an anonymous source prompted parents Steve and Sharon to relocate their efforts to the Lower Mainland.

Since arriving, the Rooneys have spent much of the last week combing countless downtown locations, from Stanley Park to homeless shelters, but continue to turn up empty-handed.

"I don't think anyone expected it to last this long," said Kelly Rooney, one of Owen's two sisters who have joined their parents to assist in the search, "but you just have to keep going."

After spending the summer working and travelling around Southeastern British Columbia, on Aug. 13 Rooney admitted himself to a Grand Forks hospital for serious head injuries, believed to have been incurred during an assault.

He left the hospital the following day and has been missing ever since, last making contact with his parents two days prior.

A website with information has been set up at www.find-owen.com.

JENNFIER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

▶ Sharon Rooney plasters Granville Street with posters of her missing son, Owen, yesterday.

1 news

Pastor tells followers thou shalt not re-connect with old flames on Facebook. Scan code for story.

1 Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at m.metronews.ca

On the web at metronews.ca

The long decline of a former political superstar, Defence Minister Peter MacKay. More at metronews.ca/spindoctor

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JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

▶ Police tape cordons off an alley in the 2100 block of Dundas Street where a man was shot early yesterday morning.

Man hit in chest in East Vancouver shootout: Cops

Victim and suspect shot at each other in laneway, witnesses say ◐ Suspect has not been located

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

A 29-year-old man was taken to hospital early yesterday morning with a gunshot wound to his chest after being found shot behind an East Vancouver apartment.

Police received reports that two people were shooting at each other in a laneway near Dundas Street and Templeton Drive at around 2 a.m.

"A man was found a short distance away (on) Triumph Street suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to his chest," said Vancouver police Const. Jana McGuinness.

"An extensive area search over the past several hours has failed to turn up any sign of the second person involved in the shooting. The identity and whereabouts of the suspect are not known."
CONST. JANA MCGUINNESS

She said it's possible the altercation started inside the suite of a Dundas Street apartment and spilled out into the street.

The victim's name and condition had not been released by deadline, but he's expected to recover from his injuries.

Anyone with information on the shooting is asked to call 911.

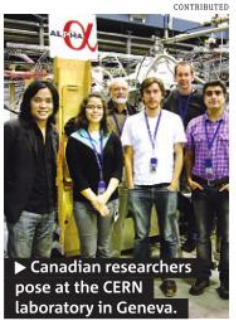
Local scientists capture antimatter atoms

An international team of scientists, including researchers from Simon Fraser and the University of B.C., hope to delve into some of the universe's fundamental questions after successfully capturing and holding atomic antimatter for the first time ever.

The historic breakthrough was announced yesterday in the science journal Nature.

SFU physics professor Michael Hayden was part of a collaboration — based at the CERN facility in Geneva, Switzerland — which consists of 40 scientists from eight countries.

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Canadian researchers pose at the CERN laboratory in Geneva.

"No one has ever managed to hang on to them," Hayden said in a release.

"Within a tiny fraction of a second, the newly produced antimatter atoms collide with some ordinary matter and disappear in a flash. We've managed to create a complicated magnetic bottle in which the antimatter can be stored."

With this discovery, Hayden said, it becomes possible to perform careful measurements and look for minute differences between matter and antimatter atoms.

15 The number of years that scientists have been trying to produce and hold antihydrogen atoms.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER

Campbell a bully: Bennett

A B.C. cabinet minister who was booted out of cabinet over his criticism of Premier Gordon Campbell says the premier is intimidating, abusive and foul-mouthed.

After weeks of making his dislike of the premier's leadership known, Bill Bennett pulled out all the stops today after being ousted from a weekly cabinet meeting.

Bennett says Campbell has lost good cabinet ministers because of his treatment of members, and he says the outgoing premier has driven people to tears.

Among those Bennett says quit because they couldn't work with Campbell was Carole Taylor, a former finance minister who has been courted for Campbell's job. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Crown pushes maximum sentence for Reyat

Inderjit Singh Reyat's lies in the witness stand denied justice to the families of hundreds of people who died in two Air India bombings and he deserves a sentence that's close to the maximum, Crown prosecutors said yesterday.

Reyat is being sentenced for perjury during his testimony at the 2003 trial of two other men accused of mass murder in the 1985 blasts. Prosecutor Len Doust said Reyat's evasiveness left many questions about the terror attack unanswered.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men charged over anti-gay attack in Chinatown

Charges have been laid against two men allegedly involved in a possible gay-bashing incident in Chinatown last month.

Dustin James Sciog, 20, from Fort St. John, and Michael Anton Hostland, 22, from Port Moody have been charged with assault in connection with the incident, which occurred near Tinseltown in the wee hours of Oct. 8.

The victim, Thomas Pope, said his attackers used gay slurs and punched him in an unprovoked attack.
KRISTEN THOMPSON

Olympic committee finally heads for the finish

Vancouver's Olympic organizing committee is one step closer to finally blowing out the 2010 Olympic flame.

The board of directors said they remain on track to cease operations with a balanced budget.

A team of what was once thousands is now down to five as remaining staff handle outstanding legal claims and a number of final reports associated with the Olympics. The original budget for the Olympics was $1.63 billion, but leapt to $1.76 billion. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Bristol Palin's dance a blast — of a shotgun

‘Raging’ man shot up his TV during Dancing With The Stars, wife says ‘He scared the bejebees out me’

POLICE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Steven Cowan

A rural Wisconsin man apparently enraged by Bristol Palin's Dancing With The Stars routine blasted his television with a shotgun, leading to an all-night standoff with a SWAT team, investigators say.

Steven Cowan, 67, was arrested after officers coaxed him out of his house in Vermont, a farming community near Madison, Wis.

Cowan, who is accused of threatening his wife with the gun after destroying the TV, appeared in a Madison courtroom yesterday on a charge of second-degree reckless endangerment.

His bail was set at $1,500.

Cowan's wife, Janice Cowan, told investigators her husband suffers from bipolar disorder and threatened her life in the past.

According to court documents, Janice Cowan said her husband came home Monday from the bar and had a beer with dinner before they settled down to watch Dancing With The Stars.

When Palin, the 20-year-old daughter of U.S. politician Sarah Palin, began her routine, Cowan jumped up and began swearing.

Janice Cowan said her husband left the living room and reappeared 20 minutes later with his shotgun, “raging” with his face bright red, and blasted the TV.

“He scared the bejebees out of me,” she told detectives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy. Powerful politics

▶ A student demonstrating in Milan yesterday.

ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlusconi bombshell

Politics have hit turbulence in Italy. Premier Silvio Berlusconi will face a do-or-die confidence vote Dec. 14, reports say. And students demonstrated against education reforms in many cities yesterday.

Sleepy pilot blamed for crash that killed 158

The pilot of an Air India flight that crashed in May, killing 158 passengers, slept through more than half the flight and woke up disoriented when it was time to land the aircraft, investigators say.

Data recorders on the plane caught the sound of heavy nasal snoring and breathing, the Hindustan Times newspaper said.

Investigators say flight commander Zlatko Glusica's reactions were slow while bringing the aircraft in for a landing at Mangalore airport.

The Air India Express flight from Dubai overshot a hilltop runway, crashed and plunged over a cliff. Eight people survived.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1463 Kingsway Ave
3081 Main St
530 West Broadway
555 West Hastings, Unit 15 (Harbour Centre)
88 West Pender St (Tinseltown)

Plenty of folks don't want their junk touched

New viral sensation captures frustration of crew, passengers over enhanced security at U.S. airports

REBEKAH BUTLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Tyner

The refusal of an American air traveller to go through a body scanner has given rise to an Internet sensation, and has the U.S. government defending the controversial machines.

John Tyner blogged about his refusal to undergo a full-body scan or pat-down at San Diego International Airport. When he was singled out for a body scan, Tyner refused, as he was entitled to do provided he instead submitted to a body pat-down by an agent.

The security agent explained to Tyner that he would have to touch his groin area.

"We can do that out here, but if you touch my junk I'm going to have you arrested," Tyner is heard saying on the recording.

Tyner offered to go through a metal detector, but eventually was escorted back to the ticketing area, where he got a refund.

He documented his experience on the Internet, where video of his airport encounter has been viewed hundreds of thousands of times, and he has done a series of media interviews.

Tyner's refusal has led to online sales of T-shirts, bumper stickers, hats and underwear with the words, "Don't Touch My Junk!"

Annoyance at U.S. security hassles has been on the rise among airline crews and passengers for years, but the widespread use of full-body image detectors this year and the simultaneous introduction of more intrusive pat-downs seems to have ramped up the frustration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guinea. Tension

A man speaks with police investigating the shooting of Abdulai Bah, 20, who died from a gunshot to the neck in a suburb of Conakry, Guinea yesterday.

JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pointing out trouble in Guinea

A state of emergency has been declared over the country two days after it was announced that RPG candidate Alpha Conde had won Guinea's tense presidential election. Conde received 53.5 per cent of the 2.89 million ballots cast. His opponent, Cellou Dalein Diallo, got 47.5 per cent of the votes.

Just say no to scanning: Group

An online group is calling on airline passengers to opt out of "enhanced" scanning and force security staff to use new pat-down procedures. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

For more, visit optoutday.com

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Canada facing a housing meltdown?

U.S. economist sounds alarm over country's home prices Sees no reason to be 50% higher than U.S.

One of the first economists to accurately predict America's housing meltdown is warning Canadians they could face something similar if steps are not taken to restrain the sector.

Dean Baker of the Washington-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research says he sees no reason why average home prices in Canada should be about 50 per cent higher than in the U.S.

He says Canada could see house prices collapse by 25 to 30 per cent if interest rates rise by about two per cent.

Given the economic damage that a burst housing bubble can cause, Baker says Ottawa should look at tightening regulations further and the Bank of Canada should consider raising interest rates.

Baker was recently given the Revere Award along with two others for being the first to sound the alarm on the U.S. housing bubble, five years before it burst.

Basing his outlook on house-price data-sets produced by the US government and Yale economist Robert Shiller, Baker was among the first economists to assert there was a bubble in the US housing market in 2002, well before its peak in late 2005 and one of the few economists to predict that the collapse of this bubble would lead to recession. He has been critical of the regulatory framework of the real estate and financial industries, the use of financial instruments like CDOs, and the incompetence and conflicting interests of US politicians or regulators, such as Hank Paulson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bailout blues

- **Dean Baker** opposed the U.S. government bailout of Wall Street banks on the basis that the only people who stood to lose from their collapse were their shareholders and well-paid CEOs.
- **Baker has ridiculed** the U.S. elite for favouring it, asking, "How do you make a DC intellectual look less articulate than Sarah Palin being interviewed by Katie Couric? That's easy. You ask them how failure to pass the bailout will give us a Great Depression."

VW. Super model

▶ German supermodel Heidi Klum unveils Volkswagen's new EOS convertible at the Los Angeles Auto Show yesterday.
REUTERS

Americans think smaller

Americans are migrating to smaller things in other areas of their lives, like housing, and will gradually adopt smaller cars, experts say. Downsizing may even be essential as stricter fuel economy rules take effect in 2016.

Market moment

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
+ 55.60 (12,657.83)	– 0.20¢ (97.63¢ US)	– $1.90 US ($80.44 US)	$3.939 (+ 12.1¢)

Gold contracts $1,336.90 (– $1.50)

PHOTOS.COM, ISTOCKPHOTO

Sensitive documents stolen from Carney

The Bank of Canada is reviewing its security procedures after sensitive documents were stolen from governor Mark Carney's car earlier this month.

Bank spokesman Jeremy Harrison says the documents didn't contain any "market moving" information. But he says the documents, which included staff reports and briefing notes, did contain internal Bank of Canada security classification.

The locked car was unoccupied when someone smashed a window and grabbed a bag containing the documents and a few of the governor's "personal effects" on Nov. 1.

The RCMP's Integrated National Security Enforcement Team has since located the bag but won't say if any arrests have been made. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Out of sight

- **The governor was in a meeting when the bag was stolen. An official bank driver was meant to be watching over the vehicle but Harrison couldn't say where the driver was at the time of the theft.**

West will be best during recovery: Report

Canada's recovery is starting to take on the "two-economies" aspect of the pre-recession years, where resource-rich regions prosper and central Canada struggles.

A new forecast from Scotiabank shows Alberta, Saskatchewan as well as Newfoundland and Labrador — three provinces rich in oil, gas and other resources — will lead Canada in economic growth next year.

Meanwhile, Canada's manufacturing heartland in Ontario and Quebec will lag behind with growth rates of 2.0 and 1.9 per cent respectively.

Scotiabank economist Alex Koustas notes that the western provinces were hit hard during the 2008-09 recession, when global demand and prices for commodities, from oil to minerals to potash, fell.

But now that the global recovery has begun, those sectors are coming back strongly, while manufacturers are still facing headwinds from the high dollar and weak demand in the United States.

The economy divide is expected to be reflected in jobs growth as well. Saskatchewan is forecast to continue leading the country with a low five per cent jobless rate, followed by Manitoba, 5.1 per cent, and Alberta's six per cent.

Koustas said far better job prospects in the West will likely result in a continuation of migration to the region from the rest of Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Suncor's Ft. McMurray oilsands plant. The provinces rich in resources will lead Canada in economic growth next year.

Growth

- **Business investment** was a major weakness during the recession as firms hunkered down until conditions improved, but TD says purchases are expected to account for more than half of total real gross domestic product growth in 2011 and 2012. The modernization of plants is also expected to improve Canada's woeful productivity performance.

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CAN'T WE JUST SKIP THE WHOLE CHARADE?

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

If I were king for a day, I would abolish the monarchy.

I've used that joke for years and I still don't understand why we pay so much attention to a group of inbred photo posers who have all the power of a 20-watt light bulb.

The latest news to have monarchists in a tizzy is, of course, the engagement of Prince "Two sniper shots from the crown" William and Kate. All I really know about them is that she's pretty, while he's the one that started handsome and got British looking, as opposed to his brother, who started British looking and got handsome.

I know monarchists like to rant about the institution's historic importance, but here's a quote from their post-engagement interview, which got more media coverage than the moon landing: "When I was trying to impress Kate, I was trying to cook these amazing fancy dinners and what would happen was I would burn something ... so I was quite glad she was there at the time."

That knocking sound you hear is me banging my head off the table repeatedly.

Canadians love to mock Americans for their allegiance to God, but here we are under the monarchy, essentially our spiritual leader — specifically, an awkward family led by an old woman from another country who speaks to God on our behalf.

If I were religious, I would wonder why everybody else gets to speak with The Boss while I keep getting forwarded to the regional office.

I trust that very few people accept the crown on a religious level, but then the question becomes: Why do we need a monarchy at all?

The monarchy exists so we can: 1. Pretend they're not real people; and 2. Act shocked when they act like real people. If they do something normal, like grieve at a funeral, we laud them for being just like us. If they do something normal like get a divorce, we rip them for being just like us. Can't we just skip the whole charade?

Even on its most frivolous level, the monarchy is redundant. It was annoying to me in the '90s because it was clearly the Everest of pop culture, famous "because it's there."

But today, who isn't famous for being famous? What reality show contestant doesn't think they speak for the masses? What celebrity doesn't believe they have the wisdom of a god?

And if everyone can be king or queen, why do we need one?

Common sense is dead. Long live the king.

"If I were religious, I would wonder why everybody else gets to speak with The Boss while I keep getting forwarded to the regional office."

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

More gloom predicted

Worth mentioning

A new report says India could be 2 C warmer than 1970s levels within 20 years — a change that would disrupt rain cycles and wreak havoc on the country's agriculture and freshwater supplies, experts said yesterday.

More flooding, more drought and a spreading of malaria would occur, as the disease migrates northward into Kashmir and the Himalayas, according to the report by 220 Indian scientists and 120 research institutions.

The temperature rise, which could be even more extreme along the coasts, would cause drastic changes in India's rain cycles that threaten water supplies and agriculture — the key source of livelihood for most of India's 1.2 billion people.

The report comes out just weeks before the Nov. 29 start of the UN climate summit in Cancun, Mexico, where nations will try again to reach a global agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions thought to contribute to global warming. India's many ecosystems and proximity to the equator make it particularly sensitive to climate change, experts say. The fact most of the country relies on freshwater sources, rather than desalinating sea water, amplifies the threat of global warming on society. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warming warning

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Who do you think is the sexiest man alive? Why?

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Metro Minute at Amnesty film fest

Human rights advocacy group Amnesty International begins its 15th annual film festival tonight at VanCity Theatre. The four-day festival highlights social conscience issues through 20 award-winning fictional short films and feature-length documentaries.

AIFF will also include guest speakers or panel discussions, with routes of action plans related to the particular film.

The films are largely made by independent filmmakers on a modest budget in unstable political regions.

Tickets start at $7 and can be purchased at the door or online at van.amnestyfilmfest.ca.

KIMIYA SHOKOOHI

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Breaking The Silence: Burma's Resistance, is a film featured at this year's festival.

▶ Elizabeth Banks makes a run for it alongside Russell Crowe in a scene from The Next Three Days.

Putting all our money on banks

How versatile actress Elizabeth Banks can do comedy and drama at once What she learned in prison for her role in The Next Three Days

HEIDI PATALANO
@METRONEWS.CA

As an actress, Elizabeth Banks is impossible to put in a box. In one fall movie season, she was alternately in a comedy about a homemade porno at the same time that she appeared in W as former first lady Laura Bush. Even now, while currently starring as Jack Donaghy's love interest in NBC's comedy 30 Rock, she's appearing in Theatres as a suicidal heroine in the suspense film The Next Three Days, alongside Russell Crowe.

"I feel like I was getting a little bit caught up in being the girl in a bunch of boy's funny movies and it just becomes less interesting the more and more you do that," the actress explains while munching on some M&M's in New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel. "To be presented with something that was going to challenge a whole other set of tools that I have as an actor and also to be able to play with Russell and [director] Paul Haggis, who are just at the top of their game, it was such a no-brainer."

"I feel like I was getting a little bit caught up in being the girl in a bunch of boy's funny movies..."
ELIZABETH BANKS, ACTRESS

In the The Next Three Days, her character, Lara Brennan, is accused of a murder that she claims she didn't commit. When her mental health begins to deteriorate behind bars as it becomes clear that she cannot escape her fate, husband John (Crowe) plans to go to any lengths to save her.

Behind bars

Banks interviewed some inmates to learn the details of their day-to-day lives for her role.

- **Prison** She plays the role of a woman on edge behind bars
- Inmates drained their prison toilets and used the pipes as a phone system. "Whoever is on your pipe system, you can start talking to at night," Banks said.

2 scene

Scene in brief

Here's a book with a Common touch. Atria Books announced Wednesday that Common, the 38-year-old actor and hip-hop star, is working on a memoir scheduled to come out in June.

One Day It'll Make Sense will be co-written by Adam Bradley. It will tell of Common's childhood in the South Side of Chicago and his entertainment career, including the Grammy-winning collaboration with Kanye West, Southside, and such films as American Gangster.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brooklyn bedroom pop duo Small Black swap 'cruddy Casio beats' for full sound on debut album.

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A fashion icon in the making?

A ring connects them, but what about their sense of style? A look at how Kate Middleton stacks up against Princess Diana, and to the legacy Lady Di built.

KENYA HUNT
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Ugg boots, Jigsaw dresses and bootleg jeans.

From the looks of her conservative, unfussy personal style up to date, Kate Middleton, henceforth known as the future queen of England, doesn't seem to have the chops to make her a fashion legend — yet.

Princess Diana didn't become the powerful fashion force we like to remember her as until much later in her marriage to Prince Charles.

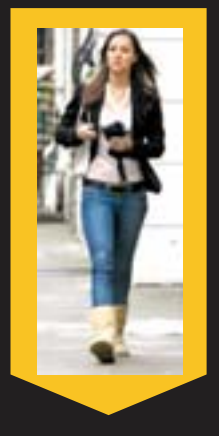
Now that a ring connects the two women comparisons will be plentiful.

Will Kate be a quick study, and transition into the big leagues of impeccably turned out ladies, joining Michelle Obama and Carla Bruni as modern-day international icons? We measure her odds.

Ups and downs

Kate Middleton
The girl likes boots. But thankfully, she replaced the Uggs with a more equestrian-inspired look.

Kate Middleton
Ugg boots, a seashell necklace and blazer do not a fashion-plate make.



Princess Diana
In a sign of better dressed days to come, Lady Diana paired a flouncy blouse with her statement coat.

Princess Diana
Only Lady Diana could look like the young, ethereal ingénue in a frumpy sweater vest and skirt. The outfit is terribly dowdy.

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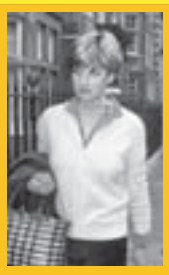
Kate Middleton
Her best looking pair of boots yet! Kate stepped it up a notch with a fur hat and a sleekly tailored coat.

Kate Middleton
A jaunty little hat and dress-coat that looks like it's made out of curtains.

Princess Diana
As her wedding day drew near, Lady Diana dropped the sweaters but kept the deep V and ruffles.

Kate Middleton
This see-through Project Runway reject dress helped Kate land Prince William, but makes the rest of us cringe.

Kate Middleton
Kate already has a more sophisticated look than Lady Di did during the same stage in her courtship.



Princess Diana
As a princess, Diana was known for body-hugging gowns. But as a single lady, she wore boring sweaters.

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Album reviews A classic ●●●●● | Buy it ●●●●| Get the single ●●● | Borrow it ●● | Don't bother ●

Rihanna delivers on her promise

Rihanna
Album: Loud
Label: Def Jam
●●●●

Last year Rihanna addressed her very public case of domestic abuse by playing the empowered one on Rated R, at times reaching too far into darkness with an album that was too severe for the type of artist she's become.

Loud comes less than a year after Rated R, promising it would be Rihanna "just being normal, sassy, fun, flirty and energetic." If we're to hold her to those words then she's delivered on that promise. With "SAndM," she boldly asserts her sexuality over a club banger, and keeps it coming over mutual foreplay with former flame Drake.

What's impressive is how RiRi upstages her guests, giving regular show-stealer Nicki Minaj some competition on the air siren assisted Raining Men, and leaving Eminem all but one verse on the epic sequel to Love The Way You Lie. Considering the quick turnaround, Loud is understandably uneven in spots: boozing anthem Cheers (Drink to That) rashly uses an Avril Lavigne sample, and power ballad California King Bed has no place in her repertoire.

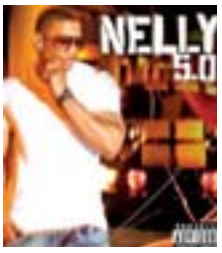
Still, Loud is the rare occasion a rebound actually works, with Rihanna reinventing herself as the confident diva she once was with an album that's unmistakably her best yet. **Outstanding track:** What's My Name ● CAM LINDSAY

Kid Rock
Album: Born Free
Label: Atlantic/Warner
●●●

Rock n roll's bad boy is at his best when he turns down the amps and picks up his acoustic. Fortunately, he does just that on his latest. Care, a touching duet with Martina McBride, is almost as infectious has his famous duo with Cheryl Crow, while other tracks channel a more subdued southern folkie than a rap rocker. **Outstanding track:** Care ● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Bruce Springsteen
Album: The Promise
Label: Columbia/Sony
●●●½

Springsteen cleans up and packages 21 tracks from his "lost sessions" during the three years (1975-78) between the release of his blockbuster hit Born to Run and the critical favourite Darkness on the Edge of Town. These are bold songs written at the artist's peak, reflecting his love for early American pop-rock, and glorifying the recklessness of young love.. This two-disc collection is uneven, but nonetheless, a must for Springsteen fans. **Outstanding track:** Because the Night ● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM



Nelly
Album: 5.0
Label: XX
●●●

If you've forgot about Nelly's greatness, he's here to remind that he's number one. Whether he deserves that title is not clear, but he repeats it enough times on his new record's opening track that it's he believes it at least. His latest isn't his nearly best work — the epic beats get tiring after a while — but there's enough catchy material to remain a stable in club districts around the country. Liv Tonight is probably the most bar-friendly of the bunch. **Outstanding track:** Long Gone ● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Josh Groban
Album: Illuminations
Label: Warner
●●●

The shy guy with the magical voice cuts ties with David Foster, moves from California to New York, joins forces with rock producer Rick Rubin and becomes a singer-songwriter. Judging by the strongest of his new songs — Bells of New York City — Josh likes the new surroundings. This CD would have been better if it had stuck to the original plan, presenting Groban as a folky balladeer. It works on tracks like Higher Window. **Outstanding track:** If I Walk Away ● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM

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Behind the scenes with The Boss

PAT HEALY
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN BOSTON

▶ Bruce Springsteen

Within the first few minutes of The Promise: The Making of Darkness on the Edge of Town, the viewer gets a strong sense of why Bruce Springsteen was nicknamed The Boss.

Springsteen sulks in a recording studio chair, listening to a playback of a song from his fourth album as the producer, sound engineer and members of the E Street Band try to figure out why he's unhappy with the take. The band, he says, is not playing on the beat, and he huffs at the engineer to play the tape to demonstrate his point.

E Street drummer Max Weinberg says although there are tense times depicted on this new DVD, this candid moment is only a part of a bigger picture that included many ups and downs within the long days in the studio.

"We would go 12-hour days, five days a week. And you just pushed and pushed and pushed, and what that did was just taught you how to dig down deep to get that stuff out," says Weinberg. The new DVD is part of a deluxe package from Springsteen, which came out Tuesday. Also included is a two-CD set with 21 unreleased songs.

For Springsteen, 1975 was a year where life imitated the most triumphant aspects of his art; when he released his third album, Born to Run.

But in 1976, he became embroiled in a lawsuit with Mike Appel, the manager and producer with whom he split at the end of making Born to Run. The court order stipulated that Springsteen could not record any music with a producer not pre-approved by Appel.

After the parties settled out of court 12 months later, Springsteen was in a headspace far removed from the naïve exuberance of his first three albums. He was in midst of contemplating the meaning of his commercial success.

In The Promise, Springsteen sums it up succinctly. "There were two clouds that hung over the writing and recording."

Once the clouds of the lawsuit settled, Springsteen began a creative period that yielded too many songs to fit on his follow-up album.

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Calling it quits: Longoria files for divorce

Desperate Housewives star cites irreconcilable differences in split

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tony Parker and Eva Longoria.

Less than four years after a storybook wedding in Paris, Eva Longoria filed court papers yesterday to divorce basketball star Tony Parker, citing irreconcilable differences.

Longoria, a star of TV's Desperate Housewives, and Parker, an NBA All-Star with the San Antonio Spurs, were married in a civil ceremony on July 6, 2007.

The next day, a priest married them in a church across from the Louvre Museum, followed by an exclusive bash at a storied French chateau.

Each posted a statement on their Twitter accounts addressing the divorce.

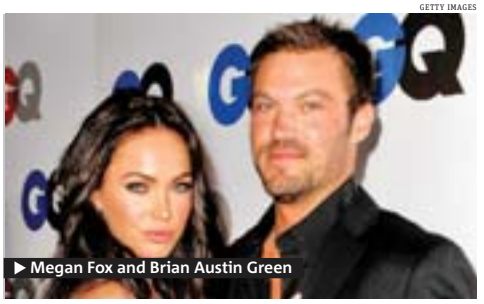
"We love each other deeply and pray for each other's happiness," it said.

They have no children together.

Longoria has one previous marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green

BAG talks about past breakup

Brian Austin Green and Megan Fox are happily married now, but he's finally opening up about their brief split in 2009 — and Green says it was his idea once she became famous.

"The reality is, she was 18 when I met her and she went through an enormous change in her life," he tells Access Hollywood.

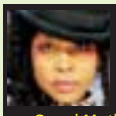
"I didn't want her to feel like she was stuck because she said she wanted to be in a relationship to begin with and we just never really went in different directions. We'd say, 'Oh, let's kind of take a break and see what's going on.' It always came back together."

METRO

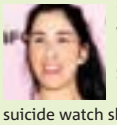
Celebrity tweets

Russell Crowe [@russellcrowe] Tenny had 2 answer questions for Father's Day at school, when he was asked why do you love your Dad? he said "because he takes me to Paris"

Steve Martin [@SteveMartinToGo] No tweets today because I'm stuck in a taxi in my house.



Erykah Badu [@fatbellybella] Pretosius Both of my Grand Mothers are 83. There is an old lady inside of me that I can not wait to meet.



Sarah Silverman [@SarahKSilverman] No one on suicide watch should be allowed to look in an airplane bathroom mirror. METRO

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How to put your stamp on the camel coat

Just because it's the most inescapable item of the season, doesn't mean you can't make it your own. Take a cue from this real-life look, by working in unexpected details like bold prints and sheer fabrics.

Remix her style

KENYA HUNT
METRO WORLD NEWS

You were psyched when you first bought your camel coat. Then you started seeing it on one woman after another (and another and another) on the street. You'd choose not to wear it, but you've already spent money on the thing.

Now what do you do?

For one, embrace the challenge to flex the part of your personal style that makes you an individual.

The woman pictured here did this through fresh details: polka dots peeking out from under a basic black sweater and a sheer skirt that contrasts the coat's heavy wool.

1

2

3

4

1 ZARA CROMBIE COAT

$229, zara.com

2 UNIQLO CASHMERE V-NECK SWEATER

$80, uniqlo.com

3 CHURCH'S ANKLE BOOTS

$570, netaporter.com

4 DARLING LACE SKIRT

$94, asos.com

MORE WAYS TO PERSONALIZE YOUR CAMEL COAT

The beauty of the coat? It looks great with anything. The downside? It can read boring. So, punch it up!

NEW BUTTONS

Swap out the coat's original buttons for something that reveals a little bit more personality such as a vintage-looking style with a metal crest or an oversized resin flower.

EXPERIMENT WITH ADD-ONS

Have fun with add-ons by tying an embellished belt or velvet sash around the waistline. It will make your coat look more unique and help trap in heat on chilly days.

3 life

Style in brief

From the collieries to the royal court (tip your cap to Prince Charles and his newly engaged son Prince William), the flat cap has been a favorite for generations of men.

Also known as the six pence or scally cap, it's less extravagant and easier to wear than brimmed styles such as the trilby and has become a staple for country types, city slickers and celebs like Brad Pitt.

It's lightweight and as far as hats go, relatively inconspicuous, making New York Hat Company's style the perfect gift for the modestly fashion-conscious man in your life. It costs $49 at mywardrobe.com

Heidi Klum does New Balance line in chronological order, starting with daywear.

A very Debbie season

Debbie Travis talks festive decor trends, shares the holiday collection she designed for Canadian Tire

DECOR MOMENT

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Debbie Travis is a four time Gemini-winning television host (her current television series; All For One airs on CBC), author of nine best-selling books and designs a line of signature home goods sold exclusively at Canadian Tire.

This year Debbie designed the entire Christmas collection for Canadian Tire Stores; it's a collection of tree ornaments, wreaths and holiday decor that is on-trend for the holidays and priced for every budget.

I had a chance to ask her a few questions regarding holiday trends and the collection for this year.

What's the most exciting holiday decor trend this year?

I think it has to be holiday fun; it's definitely included in the various collections I've designed. Themes include Masquerade Ball, Candy Cane and Winter Forest (there are six themes to the collection).

You'll see lots of nostalgia (think 1950s), stripes, polka dots, glitter and shine.

There will also be a sense of homemade to some of the collections; a trend that we will see sticking around for a few years.

How do you decorate in your own home?

I am usually in Montreal during the holidays and decorate two very different trees.

I have what I call a 'memory tree' in the living room that highlights family memories through ornaments collected over the years.

My boys would absolutely kill me if they didn't see those familiar ornaments each year!

I then put up a hip, trendy tree in the dining room; it's a way to stay current with trends and have fun when entertaining.

How will this year's holiday decor differ from next year?

There will be different colour themes but I am hoping that ornaments purchased this year can be built up and added on next year.

Collecting memorable ornaments that create memories from year to year is what it is all about.

SUBMITTED

▶ Debbie Travis

SUBMITTED

▶ The Girlie Shoe Collection make great gift toppers and napkin rings, says Travis

SUBMITTED

▶ Travis has a traditional tree and a modern one.

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▶ Masquerade ball themed ornaments add rich, jewel-tone colours to the tree.

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TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

The perfect setup

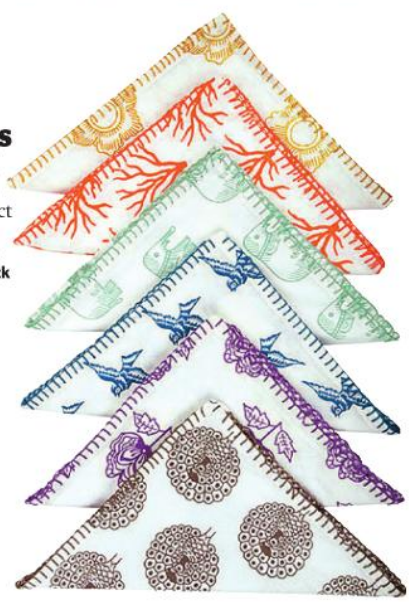
With the right place mats, no one will notice the scrapes on your beat-up Ikea table. **Chilewich Dahlia place mats in gunmetal, $8 each,** conranusa.com

Clink clink

$7 wine? Who cares when you're serving it in fancy stems. **John Rocha Folio 1 wine glasses, $125 for a pair,** waterford.com

Not for BBQs

Yes, those naps are made of paper, but they'll never suspect that from a host who puts out cloth napkins. **Simrin block print napkins, $44,** velocityartand design.com



Gastown's latest sushi spot still finding its way

ERIN IRELAND

▶ Spicy Tuna Maki, Spinach Gomaae

Sea Monstr's locally sourced fare is more akin to Nemo than Nessie

LUNCH RUSH

ERIN IRELAND
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

It was like the time I watched Finding Forrester. Ebert and Roeper had given the flick two thumbs up. There was even Oscar buzz. But, somehow, I didn't get it.

The anticipation surrounding Sea Monstr Sushi's recent opening was, in fact, monstrous. They claim to "destroy hunger," although, upon visiting, the only thing crushed was my dream of exciting Japanese food in Gastown.

My server recommended the Spicy Tuna Maki ($4.50) because of its unique spicy sauce, adventurously made without sriracha. The poorly crafted rolls arrived 25 minutes later, a tadpole-sized portion of premium tuna cowering alongside crisp radish sprouts inside the nori. The tangy sauce, however, did have bite.

Similar story with the Real Crab California Maki ($9), containing ripe avocado and fresh tobiko. Albeit excellent quality, the sushi was forgettable.

The meal's high note was a rich and chilled sesame paste-seasoned Spinach Gomaae ($3).

- **Sea Monstr Sushi**
- **55 Powell St.**
- **604-681-2144**
- **Rating: ** 1/2**
- **Reservations: No**
- **Take-out: Not yet**

Glazed Mushrooms

Ingredients:

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) each balsamic vinegar and lime juice
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) brown sugar
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 2 to 5 ml (1/2 to 1 tsp) hot red pepper flakes
- 250 ml (1 cup) broken walnut pieces
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) vegetable or olive oil
- 500 g (1 lb) small fresh mushrooms (white or cremini)

Glazed Mushrooms Preparation:

1. In a measuring cup or small bowl, mix vinegar, lime juice, sugar, garlic and hot red pepper flakes; set aside.
2. Heat a large skillet or wok over medium-high heat. Add walnuts; cook and stir constantly for 2 to 3 minutes or until lightly toasted. Remove and set aside.
3. In same skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; add mushrooms and stir-fry for 3 to 4 minutes. Add walnuts to skillet and stir in vinegar mixture while stirring constantly for 2 to 3 minutes or until bubbling and mushrooms are coated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Easier entertaining

Buffets are an easy way to feed a crowd during the holiday season

You can actually feel like a guest at your own party this holiday season by hosting a buffet-style dinner.

Toronto catering chef Charmaine Baan says a buffet is a perfect alternative to a formal sit-down dinner, which can include numerous details that can often be stressful to manage during the holidays.

"Alternatively, buffet entertaining maximizes your time, budget and energy because it provides a variety of options when catering to a larger group of people," she says.

Baan says this type of entertaining means that the host has more time to spend with their guests.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 500 g (1 lb) thinly sliced outside round beef, about 3 pieces, 3 mm (1/8 inch) thick
- 3 green onions, trimmed
- 12 thin slices red pepper
- 12 thin slices ripe mango
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) soy sauce
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) rice wine
- 10 ml (2 tsp) sugar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) sesame seeds
- Sweet chili sauce

▶ Beef Maki Rolls

Beef Maki Rolls

Incorporating an array of flavours on the buffet table allows your guests to sample different cuisines in one setting.

Here we have Asian-inspired Beef Maki Rolls, which lend sophistication to any party platter.

Preparation:

1. Arrange 3 beef slices, each about 18 by 10 cm (7 by 4 inches), on 3 separate sheets of plastic wrap. Divide onions and pepper and mango slices evenly among each piece of beef; lay slices across beef at end closest to you. Tightly roll up meat around vegetables to form a log, using plastic wrap as an aid. Refrigerate in the plastic wrap for 30 minutes or up to 1 day.
2. In a small bowl, stir together soy sauce, rice wine and sugar until sugar is dissolved.
3. Remove rolls from plastic wrap. Place in a small baking dish and pour soy marinade over them, turning to coat. Marinate, turning occasionally, for 15 minutes.
4. Heat a 25-cm (10-inch) heavy skillet over moderately high heat until hot, 1 to 2 minutes. While skillet is heating, lift rolls out of marinade and pat dry. If rolls won't stay closed, secure at regular intervals with toothpicks or tie with butcher's string. Add oil to skillet, swirling to coat bottom, then cook rolls with any extra marinade you have left over, turning with tongs, until well browned on all sides, 2 to 4 minutes total (depending on thickness of beef).
5. Transfer rolls to cutting board and let sit for 5 minutes. Sprinkle sesame seeds over rolls. Using a sharp knife, slice each roll crosswise into 8 pieces. Serve with sweet chili sauce, if desired.

Chef's tip: If you find that your beef slices are too thick, gently pound each piece between two sheets of plastic wrap with the flat side of a meat mallet or with a rolling pin to achieve 3-mm (1/8-inch) thickness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'Tis the season

Make their eyes bright

Metro's toy suggestions are sure to bring a smile Christmas morning {page 28}

Colour her world

Beauty product and fragrance suggestions for the special lady on your list {page 24}

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MAKE PRETTY

Holiday gifts for her: Covetable cosmetics for the lady in your life by Janine Falcon

1

Smashbox Wish Blockbuster Palette Set, $68
With this mega kit of anyone-can-wear-it colour, she can recreate any YouTube beauty look from fresh-faced to diva. smashboxcanada.com for retailers.

2

NARS Bento Box, $140 (limited edition)
Unique makeup items, such as these porcelain Kabuki cups with luxe lipstick interiors, score high on the holiday-delight meter. Holt Renfrew.

3

Deborah Lippman nail polish, $24 each
Nail adornment has never been hotter. Deborah Lippman's glittering Boom Boom Pow and Today Was a Fairytale polishes are festively fabulous. Murale.

4

Temptu AIRbrush Makeup System, $247.50
At-home airbrush makeup made easy — just note: "If you can see the makeup, you've sprayed too close," says Sephora makeup pro Adi Lando. Bonus? You never have to clean the unit. Sephora.

5

Clinique Click and Be Happy set, $36
A purse-portable mix-and-match scent plus gloss wand? It's a little on-the-go beauty genius. clinique.ca.

6

Quo Beauty on the Go palette, $15
A slim compact with lipstick, shadow and blush makes for easy in-transit touch-ups. Shoppers Drug Mart.

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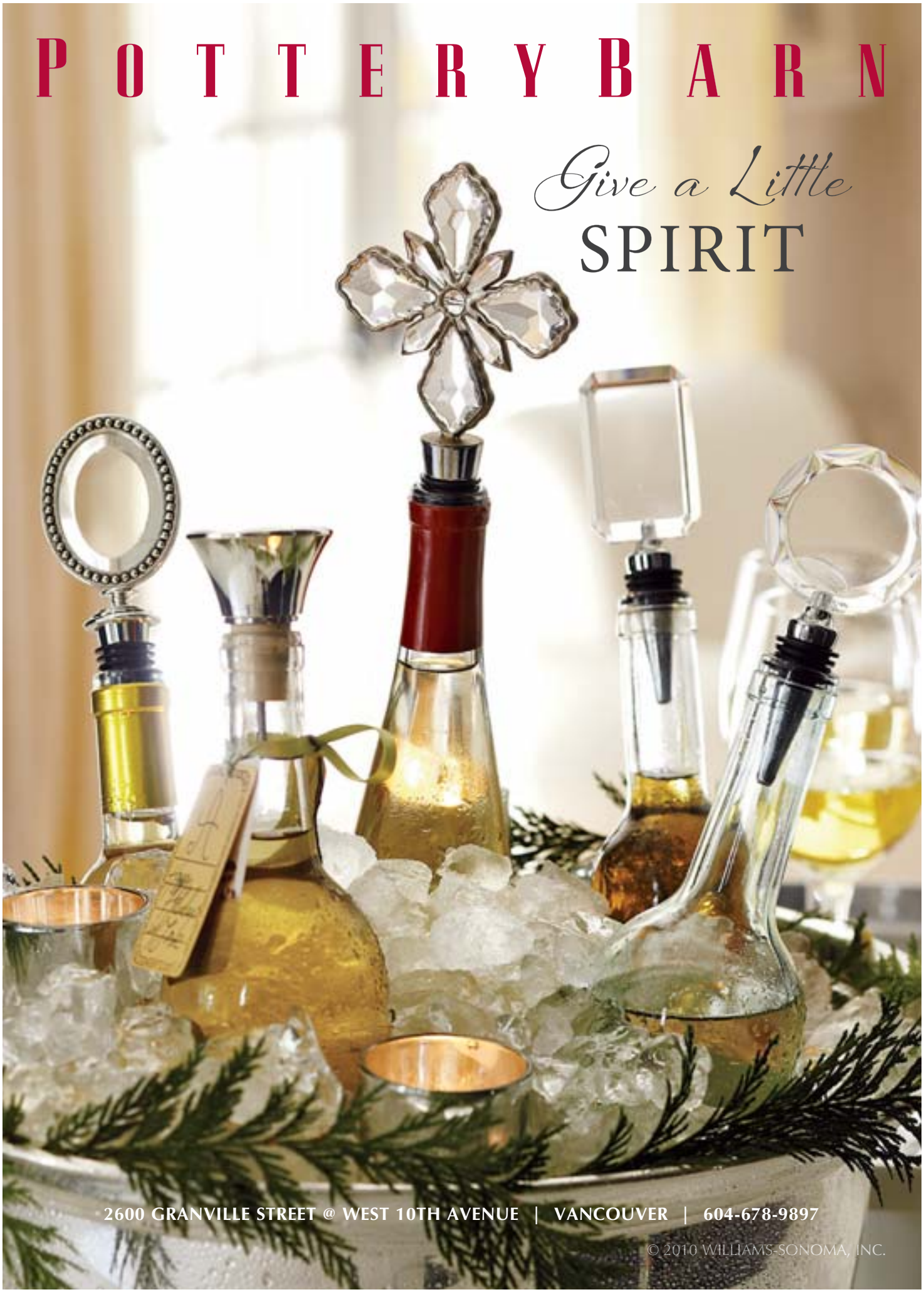
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Holiday sights & sounds

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Monster Beats Solo Headphones by Dr. Dre.
thesource.ca

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Sharp AQUOS Quattron LE925 3-D TV.
Available at most AV dealers.
sharp.ca

3 eBook, $199.99
Sony 5' eBook Reader Pocket Edition.
sonystyle.ca

4 Digital SLR, $979
Canon EOS Rebel T2i Digital SLR camera. Price includes 18-55mm lens kit.
Available at Future Shop, Best Buy and camera retailers.
cannon.ca

5 iPod audio system, $149
SC-SP100 Audio System for iPod. Compatible with both iPods and iPhones, the SC-SP100 audio system has a total output power of 20 watts.
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The Toy Story 3 Buddy figures, $9.99, are back for the holidays and are teaming up for their next adventure. Kids can re-create scenes from the Disney/Pixar movie, or create their own fantastic plot lines. Available at major toy retailers.

Barbie a Fashion Fairytale Horse & Carriage, $47.99, is for the girl who likes to ride in style. With loads of luxurious details inside, this modern carriage also has a convertible top that folds down. Available at major toy retailers.

Color Blanks, $5.99-$10.99, allow your child to engage in creative fun by designing their own plastic characters using stickers, mini markers and more. Available at Walmart and Toys R Us.

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Creating traditions

Do things your family will remember for years to come

The holidays are the perfect time to take a breather – yes, that's right. Take a few minutes and think about what means the most to you and your family. You probably will find that the things that are the most meaningful are the memories you've shared through the years. Often the gifts are soon forgotten, but decorating the tree with your kids' handmade decorations every year or serving a special eggnog recipe in your grandmother's silver punch bowl will usually be the rituals that you treasure.

"What is so awesome about family traditions is that they can be whatever you want them to be," says Sandy Sandler, founder of Crafters 4 Kids. "Even if your family never had a special tradition, it's fun to start off with a new tradition that you will carry forward.

Here are a few ideas for creating great holiday traditions to incorporate into your own family's holiday celebrations.

"What is so awesome about family traditions is that they can be whatever you want them to be."
SANDY SANDLER, CRAFTERS 4 KIDS

Create a written record

"Have everyone write something down before dinner that they are thankful for and read it before starting dinner," Sandler suggests.

Giving everyone time to think about this and actually write it down makes it more meaningful and makes people feel more at ease than they would be if they had to think of things on the spur of the moment. Keep these notes and bring them out on different occasions. It's amazing to see how everyone's lives evolve from year to year.

Do it for the kids

When you create holiday traditions for the youngest members of your family, you will be instilling memories in them for years to come. A favourite tradition could be started with close family friends who gather together all the neighbourhood kids for a special party during December. Each child could sign their name in "Santa's Big Book" and write down what they want Santa to bring that year.

Then "magically" Santa can appear, take each child on his knee and read aloud what the child had written.

Take pictures

Sandler also suggests taking pictures of everyone each year at the holiday dinner and then using that picture for the following year's place setting. Family pictures always are treasured as presents, too.

CREATORS.COM

A few more ideas

Start a collection

This is one of the easiest ways to carry on traditions from one year to the next. Find a unique "collectible," and add to it each year.

It can be as simple as unwrapping your kids' handmade ornaments and decorating a Charlie Brown tree or as elaborate as setting up tables of snow villages complete with lights and trains.

Give to others

It's perhaps one of the best ways to celebrate the holidays. Sandler suggests "spreading the love" by volunteering with members of your family at a food drive or a homeless shelter, helping other enjoy the holidays.

There are plenty of ways to make someone else's holiday brighter.

Create a special treat

Food can indeed create special memories. Having a "signature" dish is a great way to start your own tradition.

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Tips for dropping gift hints

ISTOCK

▶ Looking this happy Christmas morning may require a subtle nudge.

There's nothing worse than opening your gifts only to be disappointed that Santa didn't get you that something special you really wanted. The truth is, the 'Santas' in your life may need a little help figuring out what will make you happiest this holiday season. Rather than blurting out that you're just dying to get your hands on that new tablet or digital camera, get creative and drop a few strategic hints to get what you want.

• Make a list and drop it on the sly

List the items you want, prioritize them by preference and conveniently leave the list out for everyone to see.

• Draw attention to an online feature or TV commercial

Point out its features and make mention of how much it would really benefit you for work, school or play.

• Next time you're in the mall, steer your shopping partners directly to the items you want

Looking at the latest computers and alluding to how frustrated you are with how slow yours has been lately or how much of an asset that new hardware component could be at school, work or play may do the trick.

• Send an email or text

Rather than being too direct, send a note to your best gift giver raving about your generous coworkers who are splurging on their significant others.

• If all else fails, sending a direct link to what you want may be the best option

It's better than gritting your teeth and pretending that itchy scarf and matching socks were exactly what you were hoping for.

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Crosby golden against Canucks

Penguins star demonstrates his world-beating skills in victory

3	1
PENGUINS	CANUCKS

Vancouver's hockey fans saw it in person in February, and from afar nine months later.

Sidney Crosby's timing, as it often is, was perfect.

Crosby scored on a breakaway seven seconds after leaving the penalty box, Max Talbot added a short-handed goal and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Vancouver Canucks in regulation for the first time in 10 years, winning 3-1 last night.

The Canucks were 7-0-1 against the Penguins since losing 4-2 on Nov. 3, 2000, and had won their last four in Pittsburgh.

Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 29 shots during his fourth consecutive strong game since ending a slump in which he lost six of seven. The Penguins won for only the fourth time in their first 10 games in the new Consol Energy Center.

Crosby jumped out of the penalty box late in the first period after Pittsburgh killed off his hooking penalty, collected Talbot's pass off the boards in stride and beat Roberto Luongo with a quick wrist shot for his 13th goal and second in five career games against Vancouver.

"I thought I might be able to sneak out behind them and it was perfect timing," Crosby said.

"As soon as I came out, the puck was there. It was a good bounce."

Crosby and Luongo were Olympic teammates in Vancouver, where Crosby's alert play in overtime allowed him to score the gold medal-clinching goal against the United States.

Vancouver came into the game with the NHL's No. 2 power play, only to go 0-for-5 with the man advantage and allow Talbot's short-handed goal at 5:44 of the second.

"Our execution wasn't there," Henrik Sedin said.

"We made a lot of mistakes, we didn't get pucks in (deep). We had 3-on-2s, 2-on-1s where passes weren't on our sticks. It wasn't what we need."

"This is a team I think we should beat," Daniel Sedin said. "They gave up a lot of shots and we didn't capitalize."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Marc-Andre Fleury blocks a second-period shot as Pittsburgh's Paul Martin battles Manny Malhotra.

4 sports

Sports in brief

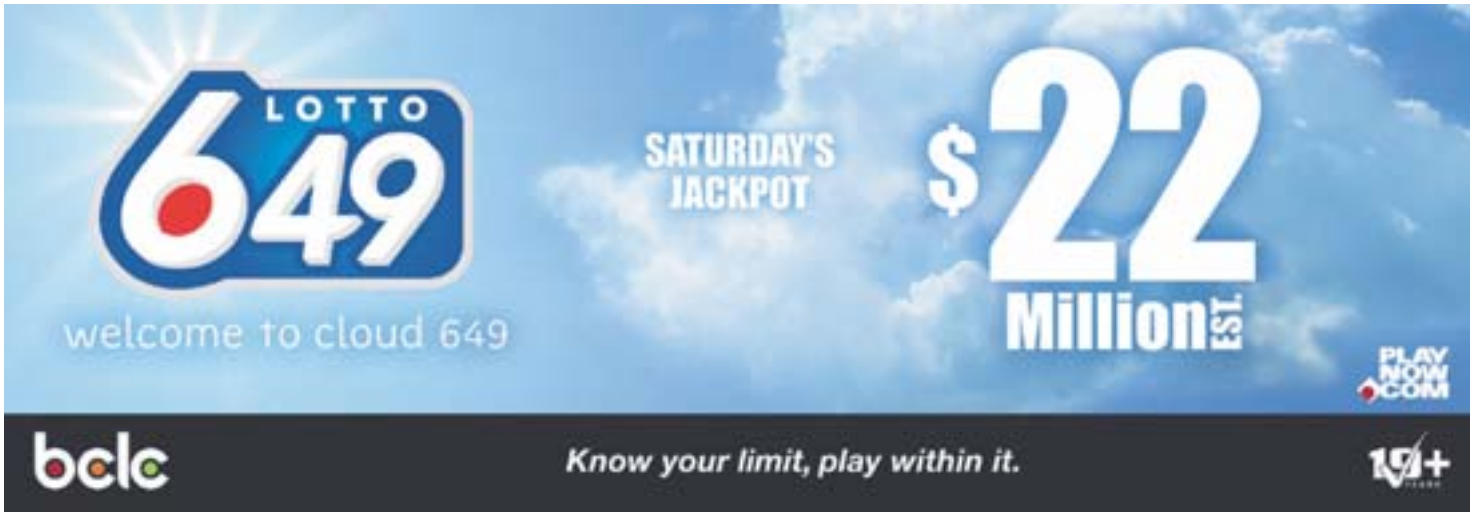
The Vancouver Whitecaps will make defender Jay DeMerit, who played for the U.S. team at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, their first Major League Soccer signing.

A source confirmed the move to The Canadian Press.

The Whitecaps, who join MLS next season, have called a news conference for today.

DeMerit's contract with English club Watford FC expired prior to the World Cup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Washington	19	14	4	1	0	69	49	29	10-1-0-0	4-3-1-0	8-1-1-0	W2
d-Philadelphia	19	12	5	2	0	63	41	26	8-3-0-0	4-2-2-0	8-1-1-0	L1
d-Montreal	18	12	5	1	0	49	36	25	6-3-1-0	6-2-0-0	7-3-0-0	W4
Pittsburgh	20	10	8	2	0	61	53	22	4-5-1-0	6-3-1-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Boston	16	10	5	0	1	47	31	21	3-4-0-1	7-1-0-0	6-3-0-1	W2
NY Rangers	19	10	8	1	0	57	51	21	4-6-1-0	6-2-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	18	9	7	2	0	52	56	20	4-2-1-0	5-5-1-0	4-5-1-0	W1
Ottawa	19	9	9	1	0	47	60	19	5-4-0-0	4-5-1-0	6-4-0-0	L2
Carolina	18	9	9	0	0	59	61	18	5-3-0-0	4-6-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Atlanta	19	7	9	1	2	58	69	17	3-5-0-1	4-4-1-1	3-5-0-2	L3
Buffalo	20	7	10	3	0	53	64	17	2-6-1-0	5-4-1-0	4-4-2-0	L1
Florida	16	8	8	0	0	46	41	16	5-2-0-0	3-6-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Toronto	17	6	8	1	2	40	51	15	4-4-1-1	2-4-0-1	2-8-0-2	W1
New Jersey	18	5	11	1	1	33	59	12	1-6-1-0	4-6-0-0	3-6-0-1	L1
NY Islanders	18	4	11	1	2	39	62	11	2-3-0-1	2-8-1-1	0-9-0-1	L11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	16	12	3	0	1	58	40	25	8-1-0-1	4-2-0-0	7-2-1-0	W4
d-Los Angeles	17	12	5	0	0	53	39	24	8-1-0-0	4-4-0-0	7-3-0-0	L2
d-Vancouver	18	10	5	1	2	55	46	23	6-0-0-1	4-5-1-1	7-2-1-0	L2
Anaheim	21	10	8	2	1	52	61	23	7-1-0-1	3-7-2-0	6-2-2-0	L3
Chicago	21	10	9	1	1	62	59	22	5-5-0-1	5-2-1-0	4-5-0-1	W2
San Jose	17	9	4	4	0	51	44	21	6-2-2-0	3-3-1-0	6-2-2-0	L1
St. Louis	17	9	5	1	2	44	47	21	6-0-0-1	3-5-1-1	6-3-0-1	L1
Colorado	18	10	7	1	0	63	56	21	5-4-0-0	5-3-1-0	6-3-1-0	W2
Phoenix	18	8	5	4	1	50	64	21	4-2-2-1	4-3-2-0	6-2-1-1	W4
Columbus	16	10	6	0	0	46	41	20	5-5-0-0	5-1-0-0	7-3-0-0	W1
Minnesota	17	9	6	0	2	39	37	20	6-3-0-1	3-3-0-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Dallas	16	9	7	0	0	48	45	18	6-3-0-0	3-4-0-0	4-6-0-0	W1
Nashville	16	7	6	3	0	42	48	17	2-1-3-0	5-5-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Calgary	17	7	10	0	0	47	52	14	4-5-0-0	3-5-0-0	3-7-0-0	L3
Edmonton	17	4	10	1	2	42	71	11	2-5-0-0	2-5-1-2	2-6-1-1	L5

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Carolina 7 Ottawa 1
Pittsburgh 3 Vancouver 1
Boston 3 N.Y. Rangers 2
Florida 2 Atlanta 1
Tampa Bay 4 N.Y. Islanders 2
Washington 4 Buffalo 2
Detroit 7 St. Louis 3
Minnesota 2 Anaheim 1 (OT)
Colorado 4 San Jose 3 (OT)
Phoenix 3 Calgary 1
Chicago 5 Edmonton 0
Columbus 5 Los Angeles 3

Tuesday's results
Montreal 3 Philadelphia 0
Toronto 5 Nashville 4
Dallas 2 Anaheim 1
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

HAWKS 5, OILERS 0

First Period
1. Chicago, Toews 6 (Seabrook, Kane) 14:24
2. Chicago, Toews 7 (Hossa, Sharp) 19:14 (pp)
Penalties — Bolland Chi (tripping) 3:58, Peckham Edm (cross-checking) 18:49.
Second Period
3. Chicago, Toews 8 (Kane) 1:12
4. Chicago, Sharp 11 (Dowell) 18:57 (sh)
Penalties — Vandermeer Edm (boarding) 8:36, Brouwer Chi (tripping) 17:45.
Third Period
5. Chicago, Bickell 4 (Skille) 1:58
Penalty — Vandermeer Edm (high-sticking) 18:37.
Shots

Chicago	20	11	16	47
Edmonton	4	8	6	18

Goal (shots-saves) — Chicago: Turco (W,8-5-2); Edmonton: Khabibulin (L,4-10-1)(31-27), Dubnyk (start third)(16-15). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Chicago: 1-3; Edmonton: 0-2.
Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

COYOTES 3, FLAMES 1

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Schlemko Pho (interference) 0:42, Turris Pho (slashing) 8:19, Glencross Cal (interference) 8:57, Iginla Cal (holding) 14:43.
Second Period
1. Phoenix, Wolski 2, 7:13
2. Phoenix, Hanzal 4 (Vrbata, Aucoin) 12:33 (pp)
Penalties — Giordano Cal (hooking) 7:55, Morris Pho, Glencross Cal (fighting) 8:22, Regehr Cal (tripping) 12:25, Yandle Pho, Glencross Cal (roughing) 13:51.
Third Period
3. Calgary, Bourque 9 (Morrison, Stajan) 16:08
4. Phoenix, Korpikoski 4 (Hanzal, Aucoin) 19:52 (en)
Penalties — Tanguay Cal (hooking) 4:09, Wolski Pho, Hagman Cal (roughing), Jokinen Cal (cross-checking major, game misconduct) 9:32, Hanzal Pho (cross-checking) 13:03, Fiddler Pho, Staios Cal (unsportsmanlike conduct) 18:53.
Shots

Phoenix	9	15	6	30
Calgary	16	9	15	40

Goal — Phoenix: Bryzgalov (W,7-2-5); Calgary: Kiprusoff (L,6-9-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Phoenix: 1-6; Calgary: 0-3.
Att. — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

PENGUINS 3, CANUCKS 1

First Period
1. Pittsburgh, Crosby 13 (Talbot, Orpik) 16:43
Penalties — Bieksa Vcr, Adams Pgh (fighting) 2:15, Crosby Pgh (holding) 14:36.
Second Period
2. Pittsburgh, Talbot 4 (Cooke) 5:43 (sh)
3. Pittsburgh, Asham 2 (Rupp, Martin) 9:04
4. Vancouver, Hamhuis 2 (H.Sedin, D.Sedin) 9:38
Penalties — Rupp Pgh (holding) 2:43, Rupp Pgh (boarding) 5:06, Ballard Vcr (hooking) 12:07, Dupuis Pgh (tripping) 16:08.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Crosby Pgh (delay of game) 14:57, H.Sedin Vcr (holding) 15:42.
Shots

Vancouver	6	12	12	30
Pittsburgh	11	9	9	29

Goal — Vancouver: Luongo (L,7-5-2); Pittsburgh: Fleury (W,4-6-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Vancouver: 0-5; Pittsburgh: 0-2.
Att. — 18,252 (18,087) at Pittsburgh.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Stamkos, TB	15	13	28
Crosby, Pgh	12	16	28
Ovechkin, Wash	10	15	25
Semin, Wash	13	10	23
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	11	23
H.Sedin, Vcr	2	21	23
Giroux, Pha	10	11	21
Perry, Ana	9	12	21
B.Richards, Dal	8	13	21
Roy, Buf	8	13	21
C.Stewart, Col	10	10	20
Plekanec, Mtl	7	13	20
Selanne, Ana	7	13	20
Backstrom, Wash	5	15	20

Not including last night's games

SOCCER

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MLS Cup
At Toronto
Sunday's game
(All times Eastern)
Colorado vs. FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

2012 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

Group E
Yesterday's results
Finland 8, San Marino 0
Group F
Croatia 3, Malta 0

2012 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS QUALIFYING

Yesterday's results
Group K
Botswana 1, Tunisia 0
Togo 0, Chad 0

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	2	.818	—
New Jersey	4	7	.364	5
New York	4	8	.333	5½
Toronto	3	9	.250	6½
Philadelphia	2	10	.167	7½

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	7	3	.700	—
Atlanta	8	4	.667	—
Miami	7	4	.636	½
Charlotte	4	7	.364	3½
Washington	3	7	.300	4

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	6	4	.600	—
Cleveland	5	5	.500	1
Milwaukee	5	6	.455	1½
Indiana	4	5	.444	1½
Detroit	4	8	.333	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	9	1	.900	—
San Antonio	9	1	.900	—
Dallas	7	3	.700	2
Memphis	4	8	.333	6
Houston	3	8	.273	6½

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	8	4	.667	—
Oklahoma City	7	4	.636	½
Portland	7	5	.583	1
Denver	6	5	.545	1½
Minnesota	4	9	.308	4½

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	10	2	.833	—
Golden State	7	4	.636	2½
Phoenix	6	5	.545	3½
Sacramento	3	7	.300	6
L.A. Clippers	1	11	.083	9

Last night's results
Miami 123 Phoenix 96
Toronto 94 Philadelphia 86
Boston 114 Washington 83
L.A. Lakers 103 Detroit 90
Minnesota 113, L.A. Clippers 111
New Orleans 99, Dallas 97
Oklahoma City 116, Houston 99
Utah 98 New Jersey 88
San Antonio 103 Chicago 94
New York 113 Sacramento 106

Tuesday's results
Cleveland 101 Philadelphia 93
Atlanta 102 Indiana 92
Washington 109 Toronto 94
Portland 100 Memphis 99
L.A. Lakers 118 Milwaukee 107
Chicago 95 Houston 92
Denver 120 New York 118
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
L.A. Clippers at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	10	90	87	284	28.4
Ellis, GOL	11	110	59	292	26.5
Bryant, LAL	11	94	80	283	25.7
Wade, MIA	10	81	74	247	24.7
Rose, CHI	9	86	39	222	24.7
Anthony, DEN	11	101	59	271	24.6
Westbrook, OKC	10	75	83	235	23.5
Martin, HOU	10	68	80	235	23.5
Gay, MEM	12	113	35	281	23.4
Nowitzki, DAL	9	78	49	207	23.0
Gordon, LAC	9	68	62	206	22.9
Gasol, LAL	11	101	48	250	22.7
Scola, HOU	10	90	46	226	22.6
James, MIA	10	70	75	223	22.3
Williams, UTA	11	83	61	244	22.2
Granger, IND	9	73	31	199	22.1
Millsap, UTA	11	98	39	239	21.7
Ginobili, SAN	9	60	46	192	21.3
Richardson, PHX	10	84	13	212	21.2
Howard, ORL	10	74	64	212	21.2
Beasley, MIN	11	92	38	233	21.2
Stoudemire, NYK	11	84	59	232	21.1
Pierce, BOS	10	73	48	210	21.0
Bargnani, TOR	11	80	44	219	19.9

Not including last night's games

RAPTORS 94, 76ERS 86

TORONTO (94)
Weems 10-18 4-6 25, Evans 1-1 3-4 5, Bargnani 12-18 5-6 30, Jack 2-13 2-2 6, DeRozan 1-3 2-2 4, Calderon 3-6 6-6 12, Johnson 1-3 1-1 3, Kleiza 1-7 1-2 3, Andersen 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 34-73 24-29 94.
PHILADELPHIA (86)
Nocioni 3-8 2-3 9, Brand 9-19 9-11 27, Hawes 4-7 0-2 8, Holiday 7-16 3-3 17, Turner 3-8 5-6 11, Speights 2-3 0-0 4, Kapono 0-0 0-0 0, Young 4-13 2-3 10, Williams 0-7 0-0 0, Songaila 0-3 0-0 0, Battie 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 32-87 21-28 86.

Toronto	25	21	23	25	94
Philadelphia	26	21	24	15	86

3-Point Goals—Toronto 2-12 (Weems 1-3, Bargnani 1-3, Kleiza 0-1, Calderon 0-1, Jack 0-4), Philadelphia 1-8 (Nocioni 1-4, Battie 0-1, Holiday 0-3). Fouled Out—Johnson, Nocioni. Rebounds—Toronto 48 (Evans 14), Philadelphia 58 (Turner 12). Assists—Toronto 20 (Calderon 8), Philadelphia 15 (Holiday 7). Total Fouls—Toronto 21, Philadelphia 24. A—12,164 (20,318) at Philadelphia.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB
AMERICAN LEAGUE
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Acquired OF Rajai Davis from Oakland for RHP Trystan Magnuson and RHP Daniel Farquhar.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with C John Buck on a three-year contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Named Tony DeFrancesco manager of Oklahoma City (PCL).
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Purchased the contracts of INF Ehire Adrianza from San Jose (Cal) and OF Thomas Neal from Richmond (EL).
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Purchased the contracts of RHP Eduardo Sanchez, RHP Adam Reifer, RHP David Kopp, INF Pete Kozma and OF Adron Chambers.

FOOTBALL

NFL
CAROLINA PANTHERS—Placed RB DeAngelo Williams on injured reserve. Promoted G C.J. Davis from the practice squad. Signed RB Jeremiah Johnson to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS—Released DL-LB Jarvis Moss.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Claimed WR Jason Hill off waivers from San Francisco. Waived CB Chevis Jackson.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Signed K Shane Andrus to a one-year contract.
ST. LOUIS RAMS—Signed TE Derek Schouman. Placed TE Fendi Onobun on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

NHL
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Acquired D Ian White and F Brett Sutter from Calgary for D Anton Babchuk and F Tom Kostopoulos. Recalled D Brett Carson from Charlotte (AHL).
SAN JOSE SHARKS—Recalled D Mike Moore from Worcester (AHL).

AHL
CHARLOTTE CHECKERS—Signed D Julien Brouillette.
TORONTO MARLIES—Recalled G Ben Scrivens from Reading (ECHL). ECHL
READING ROYALS—Announced F Yannick Riendeau was assigned to the team from Providence (AHL). Announced G Ben Scrivens was recalled by Providence. Signed G Brent Troyan.

MLB

MANAGERS OF THE YEAR

AMERICAN LEAGUE
2010 — Ron Gardenhire, Minnesota
2009 — Mike Scioscia, Los Angeles
2008 — Joe Maddon, Tampa Bay
2007 — Eric Wedge, Cleveland
2006 — Jim Leyland, Detroit
2005 — Ozzie Guillen, Chicago
2004 — Buck Showalter, Texas
2003 — Tony Pena, Kansas City
2002 — Mike Scioscia, Anaheim
2001 — Lou Piniella, Seattle
NATIONAL LEAGUE
2010 — Bud Black, San Diego
2009 — Jim Tracy, Colorado
2008 — Lou Piniella, Chicago
2007 — Bob Melvin, Arizona
2006 — Joe Girardi, Florida
2005 — Bobby Cox, Atlanta
2004 — Bobby Cox, Atlanta
2003 — Jack McKeon, Florida
2002 — Tony La Russa, St. Louis
2001 — Larry Bowa, Philadelphia

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	2	0	.778	258	214
N.Y. Jets	7	2	0	.778	208	150
Miami	5	4	0	.556	172	192
Buffalo	1	8	0	.111	164	245

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	6	3	0	.667	240	185
Tennessee	5	4	0	.556	241	179
Jacksonville	5	4	0	.556	196	250
Houston	4	5	0	.444	217	257

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	196	165
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667	200	164
Cleveland	3	6	0	.333	172	182
Cincinnati	2	7	0	.222	184	213

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	5	4	0	.556	235	188
Kansas City	5	4	0	.556	212	194
San Diego	4	5	0	.444	239	197
Denver	3	6	0	.333	203	252

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	6	3	0	.667	257	209
N.Y. Giants	6	3	0	.667	236	193
Washington	4	5	0	.444	183	229
Dallas	2	7	0	.222	194	252

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	7	2	0	.778	222	175
New Orleans	6	3	0	.667	201	151
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	188	206
Carolina	1	8	0	.111	104	215

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	6	3	0	.667	175	146
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	221	143
Minnesota	3	6	0	.333	169	195
Detroit	2	7	0	.222	215	202

WEST

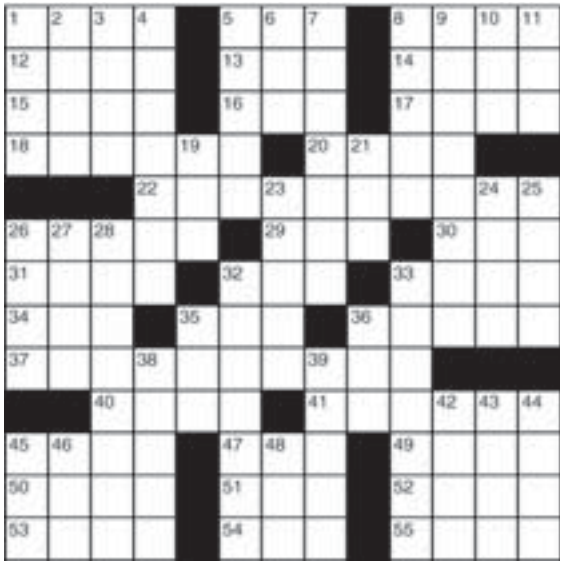
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	5	4	0	.556	166	199
St. Louis	4	5	0	.444	160	164
San Francisco	3	6	0	.333	160	198
Arizona	3	6	0	.333	175	261

WEEK 11
Tonight's game
(All times Eastern)
Chicago at Miami, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Detroit at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Washington at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Houston at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at St. Louis, 4:05 p.m.
Seattle at New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Indianapolis at New England, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
Denver at San Diego, 8:30 p.m.

CFL

WEEK 21
Sunday's games
Division Finals
(All times Eastern)
EAST DIVISION
Toronto at Montreal, 1 p.m.
WEST DIVISION
Saskatchewan at Calgary, 4:30 p.m.

Crossword



Across

1 Son of Noah
5 Run for exercise
8 Salver
12 Carte
13 Before
14 Test the waters
15 Language of Pakistan
16 Timetable abbr.
17 Grandson of Eve
18 New Zealand discoverer
20 Timid
22 Marked by integrity
26 Computer fodder
29 Individual
30 Ultramodernist
31 Prevents
32 Agent
33 Culture medium
34 Judge Lance
35 Literary collection
36 Failing the white-glove test
37 Firing
40 Speech impediment
41 Human, e.g.
45 Sacred bird of Egypt
47 Shell game need
49 Slithery
50 Rational
51 Early bird?
52 Schnozz
53 Creche trio
54 Pirouette pivot
55 "— company, ..."

Down

1 Pornography
2 Wife of Zeus
3 Tackles' teammates
4 Loose garb for islanders
5 Unisex casual wear
6 Bobby of hockey
7 Deutschland
8 Classic suit material
9 Seeded players' concerns
10 Big bother
11 "Of course"
19 Suitable
21 Compass dir.
23 November birthstone
24 Spruced up
25 Like the "Saw" movies
26 Footnote abbr.
27 Intl. defense group
28 In search of prey
32 Brief passage
33 Add to
35 Fool
36 Modern-day evidence
38 Japanese-American
39 Picture
42 Cat call?
43 As well
44 Corrosive alkalis
45 Tenet
46 Ovine remark
48 Id counterpart

▶ Yesterday's answer

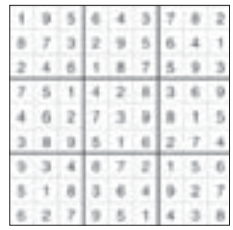
Sudoku

	8		6					
7	3					5		6
		6		2				4
2		9		6	8			
	4						1	
			3	4		6		5
9				3		7		
8		4					3	1
					2		5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶



Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

I have a really important question for you. Jenna Kaylee Merrick, will you marry me? Sincerely yours.
NILLY XOXOXO

Hey Baby, Just want you to know that I love you more and more each day. Each time we are together is like the first time we met and getting better. I smile each and every time I think of you throughout my day and when the weekend comes I am sooo excited because I know I will be seeing you.
LOVE YOU VERY MUCH BABY...!!!

Nicholas, I love you soooo much! I even bought a gold fish and named it after you! For ever and ever babe. I love you buckets!
YOUR SWEET-PEA

While the world is turning into the white, I am thinking about you and missing you all the time. I wish i could spend time with you. Love you, SUE **TEI**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 There is no such thing as chance: everything happens for a reason, and your task today is to reason why you have been denied access to something you desire.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you compare yourself to other people you will be disappointed as there will always be others who achieve more than you. Compare yourself to who you were yesterday and the day before.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Be true to yourself and don't cut corners. You can bend the rules if you wish but your conscience will nag at you for not living up to your high ideals and standards.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If you are finding a simple task difficult for some reason then maybe you should take it as a sign that you need a break. You have been pushing yourself rather hard of late.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 There is a confidence about you at the moment that is really quite eerie. The gods of change are about to move the world in your favor.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As a Virgo you know that the simplest solution is usually the right solution and you won't go far wrong if you apply that knowledge to a relationship. Jupiter is moving in your favor again and you must move too – for love.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 What happens today will remind you that it's always a mistake to assume that things will stay the same. If you stay flexible and move with the times you'll benefit in ways you cannot imagine.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Jupiter, planet of good fortune, urges you to put your own interests first today and do only what benefits you. Is that selfish? Maybe. So what!

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You know that if you go to extremes you will provoke an equally extreme reaction, so why are you toying with the idea of doing something that is sure to annoy a lot of people?

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You don't take well to criticism and that could lead to problems today as someone is intent on telling you where you've been going wrong.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You may have to lower your sights a little today, especially if you discover that your cash flow situation is not as good as you would like it to be. Have you been living beyond your means?

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You have achieved a lot in recent weeks and you will achieve even more when the Sun crosses the midheaven angle of your chart in a few days time. It's okay to be ambitious. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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